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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

In front of the festival crowds

The Long String Hawkers keep hundreds of people entertained on The Archer stage at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood.

They were one of many bands, schools, clubs and community groups who performed on the day and contributed to the buzzing atmosphere as thousands turned out to enjoy the day.

And there was so much more going on... Turn to pages 6-7 for our fabulous festival photos.



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Old Barn to be demolished

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Council has announced that it plans to demolish the Old Barn in Tarling Road and replace it with a two-storey community centre.

The original plan was to refurbish the centre and build a new wing intended primarily for the Somali Bravanese community, whose centre on Coppetts Road, Muswell Hill, was burnt down in a racist arson attack in June 2013.

Consultation over local concerns

The new wing was controversial because the council proposed building it on the land adjacent to the Old Barn which has a history as protected green

space. There were also concerns about creating what were effectively two community centres and thereby separating one part of the local community from another.

When it became clear that these issues remained unresolved, the council responded to a request for more consultation by employing its community liaison service to talk to local residents, the Big Local regeneration project, the Somali Bravanese Association and other key stakeholders.

New community centre

The new building will have two storeys with a single entrance, split vertically down the middle with each side accessible from a shared atrium. A

council spokesperson said: "One side will be leased by the Somali Bravanese Association, as a replacement for their old facility and the other half will be for other lease holders. The design will allow facilities to be shared easily."

The new plans will also allow much of the existing adjacent green space to be retained and improved. "There are real opportunities to make that space much better for community use," said the spokesperson.

The council will send out drawings of their plans with a survey sponsored by the Big Local. If you want to take part in the survey, go to www.grange-biglocal.org. The council will also hold a public exhibition of the plans during July.

"We're encouraged by the news that Barnet Council are proposing to build a new community centre that will be multi-purpose," said Pat Murphy, chair of the Big Local.

"We look forward to working with all involved and to engaging with people living in the area to ensure that the new centre meets the needs of local people," said Dinah Beamish, Vice Chair.

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